

Filed for intro on 02/16/95
House Bill _____
By _____

Senate No. SB1589
By Dixon

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 55, Chapter 6,
relative to distribution and expenditure of motor vehicle
registration and licensing fees.

WHEREAS, public transportation has taken on increased importance throughout the
State of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, public transportation provides persons throughout the State of Tennessee
with safe, reliable and efficient means to travel to and from work, medical appointments, and
shopping and recreational trips; and

WHEREAS, public transportation provides employers and entrepreneurs of all sizes
throughout the State of Tennessee with a safe, reliable and efficient means by which
consumers and workers alike reach their places of business; and

WHEREAS, in many rural areas throughout the State of Tennessee, public
transportation is the only means by which needy citizens can be transported to hospitals,
community health centers, and clinics; and

WHEREAS, in many rural areas throughout the State of Tennessee, public transportation is the only means by which senior citizens can be transported to community centers and senior citizen centers; and

WHEREAS, the cost of providing safe, reliable and efficient public transportation has steadily increased over recent years; and

WHEREAS, public transportation is provided by cities, towns, counties, transit authorities and in metropolitan governments; and

WHEREAS, federal financial assistance for operating expenses of public transportation has significantly decreased and is likely to decrease further, with the result that an increasing financial burden will fall on the cities, counties, towns, metropolitan governments, and transit authorities that provide public transportation throughout the State; and

WHEREAS, reliable figures reflect that there are 2,739 functionally obsolete bridges and 2,868 structurally deficient bridges in Tennessee out of a total 19,020 bridges as of September 20, 1994; and

WHEREAS, there are 13,582 miles of State-maintained roads in Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, cities, towns, metropolitan governments and counties require assistance in constructing and maintaining roads and bridges; and

WHEREAS, none of the collections derived from the gift, estate or inheritance taxes are returned to cities, towns, counties, or metropolitan governments; now, therefore,

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 55-6-107(a), is amended by deleting the number "ninety-eight percent (98%)" and inserting instead the number "seventy-three percent (73%)", and by placing after the phrase "highway fund" a comma "," and inserting the phrase "twenty-five percent (25%) to fund mass transit systems utilizing the procedures set forth in Section 54-4-204".

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 55-6-107, is amended by adding a new subsection (e) as follows:

(e) "Mass transit systems" as used in this section includes, but is not limited to, services also funded under section 9 and section 18, respectively, of the Federal Transit Act of 1964, as amended, and administered by the department of transportation, and public transportation systems and transit authorities organized and existing under and by virtue of Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 7-56-101, et seq.

SECTION 3. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 55-6-107, is amended by adding a new subsection (f) as follows:

(f) The proceeds used to fund mass transit systems provided for in subdivision (a) shall be allocated to the various mass transit systems based upon their annual operating budgets as reported to the Federal Transit Administration.

SECTION 4. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.

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